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Attorney Docket No.: 100809-00228 (SCEI 16.077A)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Inventor : Akio OHBA  
Serial No. : 10/723,874  
Filed : November 26, 2003  
Title : **IMAGE PROCESSING DEVICE AND METHOD, AND  
DISTRIBUTION MEDIUM**  
Examiner : --  
Group Art Unit : --

January 3, 2005

Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

SIR:

Prior to any Office Action on the merits, please amend the subject application as follows:

Any fee due as a result of this paper, not  
covered by an enclosed check, may be  
charged on Deposit Acct. No. 50-1290.

Filed by Express Mail  
Receipt No. EV47969827845  
On Jan - 03 2005  
By: [Signature]  
Patricia Muir


### REMARKS

Claims 14 - 16 are pending. Applicant cancels claims 14 - 16 without prejudice or disclaimer and adds new claims 17 - 50. No new matter is added. Support for new claims 17 - 50 may be found, for example in Applicant's FIGs. 2 - 6 and in Applicant's specification at page 5, line 11 through page 9, line 14.

Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

We respectfully request that all fees relating to this application be charged to Deposit Acct. No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Thomas J. Bean  
Reg. No. 44,5287

### CUSTOMER NUMBER 026304

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Docket No.: 100809-00228 (SCEI 16.077A)  
TJB: pm